

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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O R 021830Z

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2053

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, HO

SUBJECT: GOH CABINET CHANGES

REF: 75 TEGUCIGALPA 5505

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED CHANGES IN TWO CABINET POSITIONS, INCLUDING FOREIGN RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS. THE ACTING MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND COMMERCE WAS CONFIRMED AS MINISTER. ADDITIONALLY, TWO SUB-CABINET CHANGES AND APPOINTMENTS TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT COUNCIL AND HONDURAN SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE WERE ANNOUNCED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE GOH MADE SEVERAL MAJOR CABINET CHANGES IN A JANUARY 1 ANNOUNCEMENT. ROBERTO PERDOMO PAREDES WAS DESIGNATED AS THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER TO REPLACE VIRGILIO GALVEZ MADRID, AND LT. COLONEL MARIO FLORES THERESIN REPLACED HERMAN APARICIO AS MINISTER OF COMMUNI-

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CATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS. THE ACTING MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND COMMERCE, VICENTE DIAZ REYES, WAS CONFIRMED AS MINISTER.

2. IN ADDITION, RENE PINEDA MEJIA WAS NAMED SUB-SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PUBLIC CREDIT, AND ROBERTO VALLADARES BARRIENTOS WAS NAMED SUB-SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND COMMERCE. HENRY MERRIAM BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT (TEGUCIGALPA) COUNCIL AND HUMBERTO RIVERA WAS DESIGNATED AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE (IHSS).

3. PERDOMO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS FROM DECEMBER, 1962 UNTIL OCTOBER, 1963. HE WAS AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS DURING 1969-1971 AND SERVED AS THE HONDURAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE RESTRUCTURING COMMISSION OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET (CACM) 1973-1974. HE IS A LAWYER AND A MEMBER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY. HE IS THE SUBJECT OF A JUNE 9, 1973 CIA BIOGRAPHIC REPORT.

4. LT. COLONEL FLORES HAS SERVED AS A PLATOON, COMPANY COMMANDER AND COMMANDER OF THE ENGINEER BATTALION. IN ADDITION, HE HAS SERVED AS A INTELLIGENCE OFFICER AND WAS CHIEF OF G-2. DIA FORWARDED A BIOGRAPHIC REPORT ON FLORES ON DECEMBER 30, 1974.

5. FURTHER BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON THE TWO NEW MINISTERS WILL BE FORWARDED AS IT IS DEVELOPED. BIO DATA ON VICENTE DIAZ AND THE NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM INSTITUTE (SEE REFTTEL), RIGOBERTO SANDOVAL COREA, WILL BE SUBMITTED SHORTLY.

6. COMMENT: THERE HAD BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF MEDIA SPECULATION PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW CABINET MEMBERS RANGING FROM SPECTACULAR TO RELATIVELY MODERATE. IN ADDITION, THE RUMORED REASONS FOR THE CHANGES VARY WIDELY. THE EMBASSY WILL ANALYZE THE CHANGES IN SUBSEQUENT TELEGRAMS.
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